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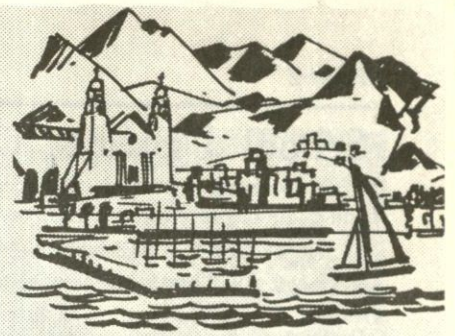
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# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SCHOOLS



Vol. 7, No. 4

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

May, 1956

## History of Santa Barbara County Schools

About This Issue . . .

### Many Contribute to Historical Edition

This issue of the Santa Barbara County Schools is devoted to stimulating the interest of educators in the rich history of Santa Barbara County and its schools.

Miss Jeanette Lyons and Mrs. Carolyn Henning, two real educational pioneers of Santa Barbara County, graciously fulfilled requests to write articles. The publication committee has

sought to credit all other contributors by indicating their names with the article for which they were responsible. This is but a small gesture of gratitude for the splendid cooperation required to assemble this edition.

It is important to note that this is in no way intended to be a complete or verified history.

The publication committee, which included Mrs. Charlotte Davis and Miss Kate Houx, has hopes that historical appetites will be whetted so that schools without written histories will begin the search and study before the past grows dimmer.

### Pioneer Teacher Recalls Her Early County Experience

By Jeanette Lyons

At the age of 18 I had successfully passed the teachers' examinations in Santa Barbara given by the County Board of Education. This was a harrowing experience, for we were examined on some twelve or fifteen subjects including botany, geometry, algebra, word analysis, bookkeeping as well as the three R's and many other subjects. I'm sure they would have included archeology, anthropology, and paleontology, had it occurred to them! I emerged from the experience drained mentally and physically and quite sure I hadn't passed. By some miracle I had and I was properly certificated and launched forth in my career as a teacher.

I "learned by doing," nearly always doing it wrong at first. There were no efficient rural supervisors at my beck and call, no curriculum library, no visual aids with which to avail one's self. The Superintendent of Schools made two dignified and non-committal visits a year and for the rest of the time resided in an ivory tower as far as I was concerned, emerging long enough to sign sixth, seventh, and eighth grade diplomas.

Just me! (Ungrammatical, but much more emphatic!) Just me, whose over-protective mother had always made most of my decisions, suddenly forced to decide everything for myself and for about some forty youngsters of all ages and all sizes. The little first and second graders looked at me that first day with such innocent trust, and the big boys, not so much younger than I, with a sort of tolerance for my obvious youth and inexperience.

It was the "turn, rise, pass" era. There was strict adherence to the three R's for there were county examinations

(Continued on Page 12)



Symbolic of the consolidation movement of Santa Barbara County Schools is this Blochman School District memorial to schools of yesterday. The present Blochman School District remembers the schools in its past by preserving the original bells from four of its six districts.



## School Districts, Dates of Organization, and Areas

The following table is the record of the school districts and their organization as is noted in the official documents on file at the Santa Barbara County Court House in the office of the County Superintendent.

Name of District	Date Organ. or Estab.	Square Miles
Artesia	July 7, 1879	7.4
Ballard	Dec. 1881	6.3
Betteravia	April 3, 1905	5.0
Blochman Union	April 20, 1928	268.0
Blochman	Feb. 1, 1909	
Doheny	Jan. 7, 1918	
Garey	April 4, 1889	
Olive	Jan. 7, 1891	
Suey	April 10, 1879	
Tepusquet	1884	
Bonita	April 3, 1895	9.8
Buellton Union	April 20, 1928	68.3
Chiquera	February 8, 1916	
Jonata	September 1878	
Carpinteria Union	April, 1912 app.	36.9
Carpinteria	May, 1881 app.	
Aliso	April 6, 1892	
Canalino	(Unknown)	
Rincon	July 1, 1874	
Ocean	Prior, June 1886	
Casmalia	Prior June, 1877	61.3
Cold Spring	April 5, 1889	3.8
College	Prior April 6, 1886	594.5
Cuyama	April 4, 1894	211.8
Wasioja	April 4, 1894	
Apache	(Unknown)	
Ellwood Union	Dec. 14, 1929	43.1
Den	Oct. 11, 1889	
Tecolote	April 8, 1891	
Goleta Union	July 1, 1925	47.8
Goleta	Prior June, 1886	
La Patera	March, 1877	
Cathedral Oaks	Oct. 21, 1876	
Guadalupe Jt. Un.	Aug. 23, 1928	34.6
Guadalupe	April 3, 1895	
Laguna	April 26, 1877	
Osa Flaco	Aug. 7, 1873	
(S.L.O. Co.)		
Honda	Prior to June 1886	70.9

The records are not totally complete nor fully verified. If discrepancies are noted or additions can be made, they will be appreciated by the Superintendent. Until the turn of the century, records on district organization were poorly maintained.

Name of District	Date Organ. or Estab.	Square Miles
Hope	Prior to June, 1888	9.9
Lompoc Union	Feb. 23, 1927	207.1
Aguafe	April 4, 1896	
Jalama	Dec. 2, 1918	
Lynden	April 6, 1886	
Lompoc	March 22, 1875	
Purisima	June 3, 1879	
Rinconada	Dec. 1, 1913	
Santa Rita	March 4, 1878	
Santa Rosa	Jan. 23, 1896	
Miguelito	Prior to 1881	
Los Alamos	Prior July, 1887	61.7
Los Olivos	Oct. 4, 1888	370.0
Maple	July 7, 1879	11.1
Montecito Union	June 26, 1922	9.2
Montecito	Prior June 1887	
Ortega	Oct. 4, 1888	
Orcutt Union	Sept. 5, 1933	89.5
Careaga	April 4, 1904	
Pine Grove	Prior to 1887	
Washington	May 5, 1881	
Orcutt (formerly La Graciosa)	Prior June, 1886	
Newlove	Dec. 7, 1908	
Bicknell	Prior June 3, 1904	
Santa Barbara (outside)	Mission, Feb. 2, 1925	22.4
Santa Maria	La Mesa, Feb. 5, 1906	
Lakeview	May 5, 1874	38.4
Pleasant Valley	April, 1899	
Rice	Prior June 1886	
Solvang (formerly Santa Ynez)	April 6, 1892	
Summerland	April 10, 1890	40.5
Vista del Mar Un.	Jan. 8, 1890	3.3
Alcatraz	June 15, 1926	118.4
Las Cruces	April 5, 1899	
Orella	Nov. 7, 1870	
San Julian	Jan. 4, 1907	
	Dec. 5, 1910	

### IF PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT— THEN RECORDS SHOULD BE

"I'm going to retire and apply for a pension and need written proof of my birthdate. I was born in Santa Barbara County in 1869 at Los Alamos." Such a request is typical of many received by the Santa Barbara County Schools.

In this case all school records prior to 1920 had been burned in a school fire at Los Alamos and no proof could be found of his later school attendance in the Lompoc Area even though he is well known in that community. No written record or proof was ever found.

A similar request was received recently from a resident in the Goleta Union School District and the reply was, "Do not have records back as far as 1911."

A partially completed survey reveals that school registers are not available prior to the dates indicated for the following elementary districts: Artesia, 1919; Ballard, 1888; Betteravia, 1908;

Blochman, 1918; Bonita, 1901; Buellton, 1924; Cuyama, 1945; Guadalupe Joint Union, 1873; Hope, 1891; Los Olivos, 1920; Orcutt Union, 1912; Solvang, 1911; and Vista del Mar Union, 1923.

Los Olivos has no school registers prior to 1920, but one Los Olivos register dated 1894 was found at the Guadalupe Joint Union School District and returned. Many of the residents listed in the register are still living but proof of school attendance is entirely lacking except for one single register.

Many of the registers kept in abandoned, unionized, or elementary districts cannot now be found. Some registers are still carelessly kept and in a visit to one school the registers were found in a pasteboard box that was to be discarded. In other districts registers are just piled on an open shelf in the supply room and are covered with dust. Few school registers are safely stored in fire-proof vaults.

As yet no systematic method has

been developed in the county for preserving the only first hand records available in the public schools for giving proof of attendance, and indirectly of birth dates. Legally, some of our citizens cannot give any proof of their birth or their attendance at school.

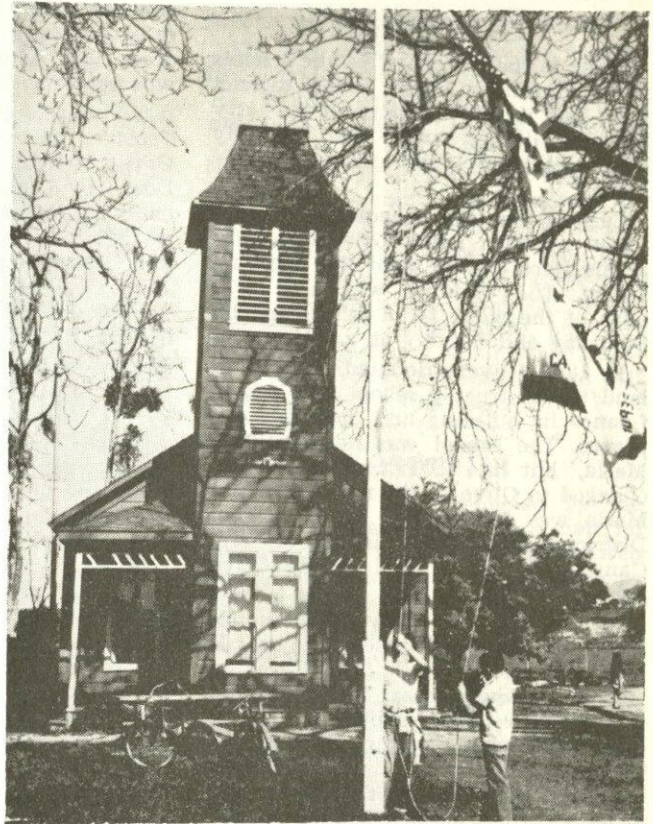
Microfilming could be utilized for permanently and economically preserving the records now available. Duplicate copies could then be maintained with one copy in the county schools office and one copy in the school district. A record of school attendance of our citizens is rather incomplete, but criminal court proceedings dating back to the earliest beginnings in Santa Barbara County can be seen in the County Clerk's office.

Many of the registers for many of the districts and subdistricts are now extinct and gone forever just like the Dodo birds, although the law requires that school registers be maintained permanently.



## HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Name of District	Square Miles
Carpinteria Union High School District	40.2
Carpinteria Union	
Summerland	
Lompoc Union High School District	296.5
Artesia	
Honda	
Lompoc Union	
Maple	
Santa Barbara High School District	14.5
Cold Spring	
Ellwood Union	
Goleta Union	
Hope	
Montecito Union	
Santa Barbara	
Santa Maria Union High School District	882.7
Betteravia	
Blochman Union	
Bonita	
Casmalia	
Cuyama Jt. Union	
Guadalupe Jt. Un.	
Los Alamos	
Orcutt Union	
Santa Maria	
Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District	1198.0
Ballard	
Buellton Union	
College	
Los Olivos	
San Julian	
Solvang	
Vista del Mar Union	



The county's oldest serviceable school building is the one at Ballard which was built in 1883.

## Artesia

The name remains, although the reason for naming is long gone. A well was dug for the school built in 1876 in the area now on the outskirts of Lompoc. The well turned out to be an artesian well—hence, Artesia School. The well went dry in 1900.

Water continued to be a problem. When the well went dry, a cistern was dug, but alkali in the soil ate holes in the cement, so for a while a 5-gallon bucket of water dipped from the middle of the slough gave 60 children their drinking water for the day. Early day "bullies" were always in evidence, it seems. In this district, one was "jailed" in the empty cistern for a few hours. It seemed to have the proper effect.

Artesia School moved to its present location, which is near the original, in 1908.

An active community club in 1925 added a kitchen to the building, bought a piano for the school, and used the building for enjoyable social gatherings. This social club was still active in 1950 and had many accomplishments to its credit including the hiring of two teachers instead of one.

One of the earliest teachers, Howard Brotherton, was the founder of the Lompoc Record.

Enrollments at Artesia School have always been large. In 1894 there were

## Ballard

The Ballard School, the Valley's "Little Red Schoolhouse" was ready for occupancy Dec. 20, 1883, giving the Valley its first schoolhouse. The district bonded itself to the extent of \$1000 for the new school building. The project cost \$1100 and George W. Lewis, the founder of Ballard and the school's first clerk of the board of trustees, donated the extra \$100 to cover the cost of the building in addition to a half acre of land. The district also purchased another acre of land from Mr. Lewis for the site.

The original double seats have been replaced with single seats and some tables and chairs and the organ replaced by a piano. The tower was added to the building about 1890 and the stage addition came some 20 years later.

Parents of the children supplied the textbooks. In the eighth and ninth grades these were numerous since such subjects were taught as physics, physiology, botany, bookkeeping, word analogy, botany, bookkeeping, word analogy, entomology, physical geography, algebra, and geometry. Books were expensive and were handed down, be-

60 children and one teacher. Today there are 31 children and two teachers.

—Genevieve Hammond

coming dog-eared and defaced from much handling.

The first teacher in the new schoolhouse was Miss Nellie Gallagher of San Francisco. Miss Phoebe Lee Hosmer, the third teacher, came from Orange, Mass., and began her work as teacher in 1886. After teaching three years, she resigned to accept a position at Los Alamos.

School was first held in George W. Lewis' granary. In 1881 and 1882 the school was moved to an empty building with one of those high fronts which had, for a short time, carried a sign "Saloon." Since the business was not profitable, the building was moved to a more favorable location and used as a school.

As the little red schoolhouse was the only public building in the Valley, it was often used for church services. Until regular churches were built, weddings, funerals, meetings of various organizations, lectures, socials, entertainments, and debates were held in the school. Occasional Saturday night dances are still remembered by old timers.

Today the school has only the first four grades. The trustees have decided the children will be able to receive more individual attention with few children and fewer grades. Children from fifth through eighth grades attend either Los Olivos or Solvang Schools.—Santa Ynez Valley News.



## Blochman

Prior to the advent of public schools in the Blochman Union School district from 1855 to 1876, children of the early pioneers studied under the tutorship of a teacher employed to come to their homes.

One of the first schools was established by Juan Pedro Olivera in 1876 at his store and he paid the teacher's salary. The building was used five days of the week for a school and on Saturday and Sunday as a saloon.

In 1877, Olivera donated an acre of land to construct a school and helped finance its building and operating expenses. The school was named Santa Maria, but in 1891 the name was changed to Olive as the name of Santa Maria was misleading. Wood School District was established in 1891 in Long Canyon; it was a part of the Olive School District.

In 1879 the first Suey school house was built in the Bradley Canyon. It was attended by pupils from Garey as well as the Suey mesa. Sisquoc school was organized near Benjamin Foxen's home in Foxen Canyon in 1883. In Tepusquet, Perry and William Hudson maintained a school in their home for a period of six months before the Tepusquet school building was completed in 1884.

In 1884, Oakvale District, a part of the Olive School District, was organized in Cat Canyon in the living room of J. J. Holloway. Before the Garey school building was completed in 1888, the children attended school in a granary owned by Al Davis.

In 1892 in the upper Sisquoc River the Manzana School was established by a Mormon colony. They sawed their own lumber and built the school house which is still standing today.

In the early days it was necessary to build school houses where the largest number of children were located due to transportation. So the Highland School District was organized in 1893 within the Suey School District.

In 1898 an asphalt mine was developed on Rancho Sisquoc. A tent was erected with a wooden floor to serve as a school building for a period of two or three years. The school was named Wichham, a coined name from Wickenham and "ham" from another name not now recalled.

In 1909 the Blochman School District was organized in the oil fields. School was first held in a tent on Blochman's ranch before the school building was completed. Ramona School District was organized by petition in January 1915 in Foxen Canyon. Doheny School District was reorganized in 1918 in a booming oil district.

In 1931 the Doheny School District consolidated with the Blochman School forming the Blochman Union School

District. The School derives its name from an early orchardist, L. E. Blochman, upon whose ranch the first school was established.

On Sept. 26, 1947 the Board of Trustees of the Olive, Tepusquet and Garey School Districts petitioned the Board of Supervisors to add their districts to the already established Blochman Union. Due to transportation problems, the Suey School was closed in January, 1944 and the teacher and children were transferred to Santa Maria, but the district was under the trusteeship of the old Blochman Union.

The new Blochman Union School District was organized in July, 1948.

School was in session in each individual district until the fall of 1948 when the Olive school was closed and the children were transferred either to the Blochman or Garey schools.

In 1948, all upper grades were transported to Blochman School and the lower grades to Garey School. Tepusquet school remained in session until the fall of 1950, when the teacher was transferred to Garey and the children either to Blochman or Garey.

When the new school building was completed in the fall of 1951, Garey and Blochman schools were closed and the new school named Benjamin Foxen was opened. The new school was named after an early pioneer of the Sisquoc Valley.

At one time the enrollment reached 135, but is now 90. The assessed valuation is now \$7,407,780.—John Morosky.

## Bonita

Bonita School opened in 1896 with 18 pupils. The teacher drew fifty-five dollars per month with a five dollar increment for performing the duties of janitor. The school board met once a year, apparently, and elected teacher and janitor for the term, which began in late July or early August.

The teacher, according to the program in the register held thirty-two SEPARATE classes during the school day, with the children in grades one through eight being arranged in groups lettered A to F. She was still the janitor, still drew fifty-five dollars for teaching and apparently drew no pay for days when school was not in session.

By 1908, the teacher drew \$70, and blithely swore at the end of the year that she had attended institute, used only prescribed text-books, followed all pertinent political codes, and followed the prescribed course of study.

By 1924, the year that two of the present board members entered the first grade at Bonita School, enrollment had jumped to the thirties, with things more or less organized as at present. No longer do the registers show interesting little items such as

"school was closed by the board because of mumps" or "closed because of diphtheria epidemic—time made up." Noted in the "Suggestions to Teachers" in the 1922 register "Charge it," "Your credit is good," and "A dollar down, a dollar a week" are financial pitfalls which the youth of America should early learn to avoid.

The financial set up consisted of three funds, state, county, and library, the county being often required to bail the library out of the red. The state fund apparently paid the teachers' salaries.

Bonita children have worn out two previous buildings, the first probably being temporary. No records are available on these buildings, and no pictures seem to be left. Memories of the district people are hazy and contradictory on the early buildings.

The present building has existed, unchanged, since about 1916, though salaries have increased, and attendance has climbed to the forty-fifty level.

We now have a bus, with 100 percent of the children being transported, and will have a bus garage soon.—Robert Maker.

## Buellton

In the Buellton area, during the period of vast rancho estates, the owners provided schools and teachers, but as these ranch holdings were broken up and new owners came in, the need for a public school became apparent.

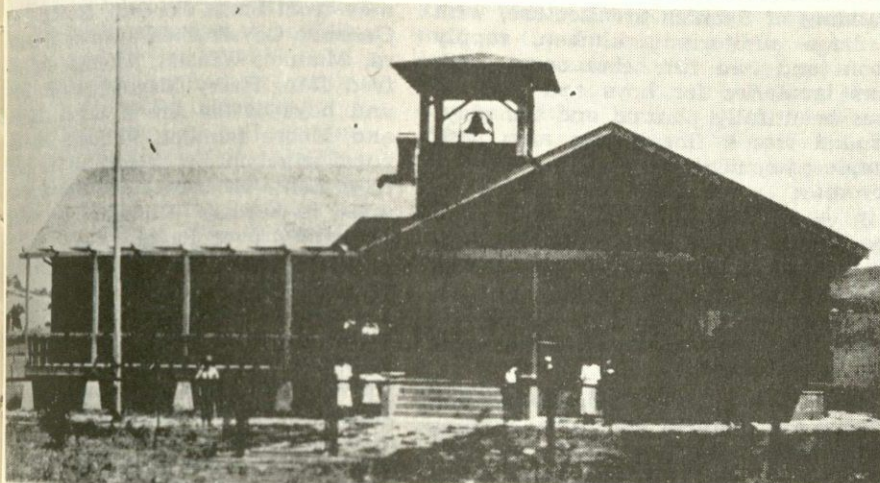
The first such school in what was to become Buellton was called the Jonata School, named after the Spanish land grant, San Carlos de Jonata, and located on what was then known as Buell Flat, now the Solvang-Buellton Road. This was about 1889. This building has been remodeled and is now the home of Mrs. Ben Aquistapace.

One of the early teachers of this school was Miss Mary Cunnane. The names of other teachers still familiar to Valley folk include Mrs. Grace L. Davison, Arthur Hapgood, Eva Ball Schuyler of Lompoc, Miss Jeanette Lyons, Miss Ynez de la Cuesta, Mrs. Walter Buell, and Mrs. Samuel de la Cuesta. A graduation card shows families represented in the school were the Buells, de la Cuestas, Mankins, Smiths, Downs, Campbells, and Beaties.

When Highway 101 was re-routed through Cuesta Canyon in 1916 and a new road constructed, many new businesses sprang up in the area, meaning a greater population and necessary expansion of the school facilities.

In 1925, plans were made for a new modern two-room school for Buellton to be located west of Highway 101 on the Buellton-Lompoc Road. A union school district was formed which incorporated the Nojoqui, Chiquero, and Santa Rosa districts. The new school





Early Buellton students went to this school.

also served as a community center, the meeting place of the Jonata Woman's Club, the Farm Home Department, and community parties, dances, and suppers.

Trustees identified with the period of the forming of the district were N. Giorgi, Johannes Petersen, William Budd, and A. G. Bodine. Students of outlying districts were brought in by bus. This was the first elementary school in the Valley to use bus transportation for its pupils.

Among the teachers identified with the school during its two-teacher era were Mrs. Robert McGregor, Mrs. Harold Imbach, Mrs. Leonard Petersen of Santa Maria, Mrs. Olga Reed, Mrs. Christine Jensen, and Mrs. Frank Giorgi.

World War II and the opening of Camp Cooke in Lompoc gave another population boost to Buellton. Due to the housing shortage in Lompoc, army personnel and their families pushed out toward the Santa Ynez Valley. Again the school plant had to be enlarged. The library and basement were put into use for classrooms. Population growth continued, and in 1950, a barracks building was purchased and moved to the school property, providing space for two more classrooms.

There are now five classrooms. Children from kindergarten through eighth grade attend. — Santa Ynez Valley News.

## Carpinteria

Carpinteria Union School District is an Elementary District made up of four component districts, Aliso, Carpinteria, Ocean, and Rincon. Records list the names of the board members of the four districts from about 1886 until 1912 when the districts were joined. At that time W. C. Hickey, H. S. Heiderick, and B. F. Bailard became the members of the new board. Board minutes, now on file in the District date back to 1927. Actual ex-

cerpts from the minutes tell very clearly the efforts of the people to provide the best for their children through depression and war years:

1928—

"A Committee from the Lions Club urged installation of a radio in the schools. Trustee Bliss offered a Grebe radio set to the Grammar School. Accepted with thanks."

1930—

"Mr. Tubbs visited the Board to recommend greater caution in athletics at the Aliso School. He reported several balls coming over into his yard every week, which he claimed to be quite a nuisance."

1931—

"Moved and seconded that all teachers be required to live in Carpinteria next year. Unanimously carried."

1932—

"Special meeting called to close school two weeks because of the Scarlet Fever Epidemic and because of the loss of school funds due to great absence."

1934—

"Moved and seconded that a bond election be called. The purpose to be to raise \$10,000 for the following purposes:

1. The purchase of school lots.
2. Construction of a new Aliso School."

1936—

"Moved and seconded that 12 tent classrooms be erected for housing of pupils of Main School which was declared unsafe for use. Carried."

1937—

"The Board of Trustees resigned." and a month later:  
"New board appointed by the county superintendent."

Also in 1937—

"Various residents presented a petition to the Board protesting proposed purchase of a school site on Vallecito Rd."

1939—

"The new Main School building in-

spected and accepted by the Board."

The new Main School is the present fine building still in use by the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades of the District. In 1940 and again in 1948-49 additions were made to the Aliso School and finally in 1953 a new site was purchased and a four-room beginning of the Canalino School was constructed.

Growth of enrollment has been gradual but steady during the past several years. A rather sharp increase is anticipated in the near future, but it is hoped that the rural flavor of the beautiful little valley of Carpinteria will remain forever.—Ray Berry

## Casmalia

This history was collected by the graduating class of 1956. This material was gathered as a result of research by the members of the class and community. We wish to express thanks to Mrs. Menghetti.

The school was established in 1880. The first site was in the canyon west of town, because this was where most of the people lived. The second site was east of town because it was the most central location. The third site is our present location which was the most central location after the Lampblack and Casmite developments closed down.

### Yearly Program

**Past.** The students began school in August and got out in May. Their studies were mainly arithmetic, spelling, reading, and history. When they graduated they took a county examination and if they didn't pass they stayed back. The only holiday vacations they got were two weeks for Christmas. The teacher that taught school boarded with one of the families. The teacher that taught could be right out of high school. She could teach for three years. They had no parties except on the last day of school. Each child had a speech to say and each mother brought a dish of food for a picnic.

**Present.** We start school in September and get out in June. The curriculum covered in the present program is largely the same as that of yesterday, however, methods of instruction and new graphic and visual aids to instruction are employed. Some of our more modern implements are movies, maps, models, and field trips.

We graduate on the stage and one of the board members presents us with our diplomas. We get two weeks' vacation for Christmas and one for Easter, plus other numerous one-day vacations throughout the year.

We have parties on most of the holidays we have, and we also have dances, too. After we get out of school for summer vacation we have a school picnic at Waller Park and the whole community is invited.



## Cold Spring

A small portion of Old Pueblo Land of Santa Barbara was set aside for the Cold Spring School on April 5, 1889. Five years later, a building was ready for use, and Miss Marian Beecher began to teach 27 children for \$50 per month.

Early infringements of the rules were duly recorded in the register, such as "willful disobedience" and "theft and falsehood." But no mention is made of how punishment was administered.

School Supply Lists of 1895 make interesting reading. Such items as these were listed:

Stove	9 Towels
Mirror	3 Brooms
Wash Basin	3 Chairs
Market Basket	1 Clock
Union Jack	2 Flags
Hatchet	Wood Basket
Jack Hammer	Pair Tongs
Soap Dish	Sand Table
Eye-view Map of the United States	
Box of Crayons	
50 Common Lead Pencils (Stolen,	

June 16, 1897.)

The school building best remembered was a two-room-anteroom structure of wood, facing the road. The school had a cloak room, or anteroom entry where children hung their wraps, left their lunch pails and washed their hands—in the basin on the marble-topped stand where a pail of water and tin cup provided drinks and "sanitary" conveniences for teachers and children alike. The middle wall between the rooms was blackboard and a huge clock ticked off the hours of the day.

Back of the school, one to the right and one to the left, stood the "Necessary Houses" Boys and Girls—in plain view of the schoolroom so that visits to these buildings could be checked without apparent effort.

A story is told of one teacher who, wearing glasses, was able to put work on the blackboard with her back to the class and, without turning or pausing in her labors, correct misdemeanors which occurred in the classroom, even calling the offender by name. It was the constant marvel of the school to the children, who did not realize that glasses, reflecting the light from the windows at the teacher's back, were perfect mirrors through which she could view the room without seeming to look.

Perhaps this gave the origin to the tale that teachers have eyes in the back of their heads!

The property where the present Cold Spring School stands was acquired by the School District Aug. 17, 1926.

What might be properly called the third school building of Cold Spring School District was erected in 1927. It was a pleasing stucco, tile-roofed

building of Spanish architecture, with a large auditorium, kitchen, supply room and two fine classrooms, with fine lavatories for boys and girls. It was beautifully planted and the playground was a fine grassy area with ample equipment for growing children to enjoy.

It was interesting to note, in tracing this story, that it was the grandfather of several of our present pupils who planted the many beautiful varieties of acacias to be found bordering the playground. This grandfather was Harry Blanchet, Sr.

In 1954, the modern addition to the school was planned and built. It joins the original structure with a "breeze-way", and the two delightful classrooms and large kindergarten room are each provided with their own wall-ed outdoor work and living area with sinks, storage closets and garden spots. Each room has its own toilet facilities and a sink and drinking fountain in the room. What a far cry from that first old school!—Georgiana K. Browne.

## College

The first school to be established in what is now the College District was the "College of Our Lady of Guadalupe," first dedicated and opened by Old Mission Santa Ines on March 16, 1844. A College land grant of 35,000 acres had been made by Governor Micheltorena to California's first Bishop, Rt. Rev. Garcia Diego, for the support and maintenance of a seminary for boys.

This seminary was also the first college in California. Governor Micheltorena pledged \$500 a year toward its support and Bishop Garcia Diego ordained that the sons of wealthy parents should pay \$350 a year for schooling and board.

The school was a two-story building constructed of adobe with a tile roof. It was located on the hill on the site of the present "Old College Ranch" of the Archie Hunt's. A chapel was built nearby for the benefit of the boys and the people who lived in the vicinity. This chapel now serves as the living room of Mr. and Mrs. Hunt's ranch home.

A long, low adobe with a tile roof adjoined the school and was used as a large dormitory for the students and rooms for the priests. One or two smaller buildings were used for cooking and a refectory. Along the front of the buildings was a long ditch which brought clear, cold water to the school from Sanja de Cota. Close beside the ditch was a trough where the boys went to wash.

There were about 50 boarding pupils in the 1860's including many young

men from Santa Barbara, among them Onesimo Covarrubias, Juan de la Guerra, Manuel, William, Alfonso, and Alfred Den, Harry Maguire, J. B. Due, and boys of the Arena, de la Cuesta, and Moore families. William Den arrived at school by ox cart up the coast from Santa Barbara. He returned home after two years' schooling by riding horseback over Refugio Pass.

After almost 40 years of struggling existence due to the scarcity of means, the college was closed in 1882. In the meantime the land that had been granted for the college had become universally known as the College Ranch. Later when a school district was established in the Santa Ynez area, it was named the "College District" for the first school to exist there.

Children of some of the early settlers in Santa Ynez attended school in residences until a frame school building was constructed for them on the site of the present College School. This was a two story building with two classrooms downstairs for the elementary pupils and classrooms upstairs for the high school pupils.

Enrollment was small in the beginning, especially in the high school. In 1904 there were three in the high school graduating class, Etelka Davis, Leona Rector, and William Quinn. Enrollment in the elementary school was about 40. The school faculty usually consisted of two elementary teachers and three high school teachers.

About 1907, this building was burned to the ground; however, school opened as usual in the fall with classes for the elementary pupils in a residence near the Anderson Blacksmith shop.

William Anderson made provision for the high school pupils by constructing the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Anderson as classrooms for them. They attended classes in this building for about six months when provision was made for them in the old College Hotel.

In 1908 a new three-room concrete elementary school was constructed in Santa Ynez on the site of the original wooden structure.

The College School was a three-teacher school for many years. In 1922 a fourth stucco classroom was added. For one semester, in 1930, the school had five teachers, but by fall of 1932 it had become a three teacher school once more. It was about 1933 that the first College School lunch program was started. One hot dish per day was provided the children.

An auditorium building was added to the school plant in 1938 when extra school funds were allotted upon payment by the old San Marcos Ranch of several years' delinquent taxes. With the additional facilities then available, the lunch program was expanded.

In 1946 College School again became a four-teacher school and the school board began to look forward to the



establishment of a kindergarten class. The first kindergarten in the Valley was started in the fall of 1947 with a class in the school auditorium where it shared space with the cafeteria.

In 1947 an army mess hall was purchased from the Santa Maria Air Base, moved to College School, and converted into two permanent classrooms and a cafeteria kitchen. The classrooms were intended for the kindergarten and first and second grades. A permanent dining room was planned for the future. Before the two classrooms were completed, however, increased enrollment required the employment of a fourth teacher. A classroom was set up for a year in the small school library for a large primary class.

With funds provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the education of children of its employees during the construction of Cachuma Dam, two temporary classrooms were constructed adjacent to the cafeteria kitchen. These two rooms were completed during the 1950-51 school year. The same year the school had grown to an eight teacher school with a full-time principal. The school cafeteria was closed for lack of space in which to operate.

In 1952 College district approved the sale of bonds for the construction of two classrooms to replace the temporary rooms provided by the Bureau of Reclamation. This fourth building was completed at the school in 1953 and the temporary classrooms were converted into a permanent dining room. A school lunch program was re-established that year in a completely equipped cafeteria.

Meantime the school staff had increased to nine classroom teachers and a part-time instrumental music teacher. During the past ten years the school board has gradually improved the grounds and other school facilities until College School has become one of the outstanding schools of the County.—Margaret Downs.

## Cuyama

Schools have come and schools have gone in the beautiful Cuyama Valley. The Cuyama School District was established April 4, 1894, discontinued in 1899 and re-established in 1914. In the meantime, the Wasioja School District, which had been formed in 1894, closed in 1904, only to be re-established in 1916. The Homestead School District, was created in 1918 as a Joint Union District since it included one Ventura County district. This district withdrew in 1922 and two years later the Homestead District was suspended because the average daily attendance had dropped to less than five. Six years later the Homestead District was attached to the Cuyama School. The development of oil in the Cu-

yama Valley has played an important part in the life of its people and its school. It increased the school population to the point of establishing the Cuyama Joint Union District about 1944, thus absorbing Wasioja and Homestead. Later, the influx of people to Cuyama resulted in a new modern town, "New Cuyama," developed by the Richfield Company. The increase in assessed valuation made possible the new modern school for children from kindergarten through eighth grade. The present enrollment is 308, marking an increase of approximately 20 pupils annually.—Ross H. Ruth.

## Ellwood

Ellwood School District's great claim to fame occurred Feb. 23, 1942 when Commander Koza Nishina, aboard the Japanese submarine, I-17, gave the order to fire. Shells then began to scream into the Ellwood oil field in what was the only direct enemy attack on the mainland of America in recent history.

During the Japanese attack, about 25 rounds were fired. The only real casualty was an oil well; another missile cut through the decking of a pier. The target had been the large gasoline storage tanks, but the aim of the Japanese was notoriously poor.

The school district was formed in 1929 by the joining of the Den School District, founded in 1889, and the Tecolote School District, founded in 1891. The oldest district was actually the Dos Pueblos School District originated in 1878, which was renamed and became the Den School District.

Mrs. Ellwood Cooper was a trustee and clerk of the district around the turn of the century. Her husband, another pioneer of the district, was later honored by having the present school named after him. Two of the original trustees were C. Wade who was the clerk in 1896 and Patrick Farren who appears on the earliest records of 1891.

These records reveal how teachers were hired for fifty dollars a month for the four-month terms which began in August and February.—Marie Alumbaugh.

## Goleta

In the middle eighteen hundreds there were two schools established in the Goleta area, La Patera and Cathedral Oaks. Goleta School, formerly Rafaela, was organized in 1909.

The first teacher was Henry Cook. One of his students was E. S. Pickett and a quarter of a century ago Mr. Pickett's niece, Bess Rowe (now Mrs. Archie Hunt of Santa Ynez) became the teacher of this little school.

The Cathedral Oaks School still standing on Highway 150, is believed to be the oldest school in the Goleta

area. The owner of the surrounding property purchased the building and land when the school was no longer in operation. It was remodeled into a guest house!

In 1925, the existing districts merged to form the Goleta Union School District, and the present buildings were built on Hollister Avenue in Goleta. At the time of organization, Judge William Lillard was clerk of the union district and the late Fred Stevens was the first president of the board.

Within the space of 30 years, the school population of the Goleta area has grown to such an extent that a second school building will soon be in the process of construction, near the site of the original white frame Cathedral Oaks School. So there will again be a Cathedral Oaks School—a modern, functional ten-classroom building. In the near future, fifth generation Goletans will grow and learn in the shadow of the school of their great-grandparents.

Goleta district's present enrollment of 565 students in two large buildings is a far cry from the one room schools of early days.—Ian Crow

## Guadalupe

There has been a school in Guadalupe since 1873 according to existing records. In 1928 the people of Laguna, Oso Flaco, and Guadalupe Districts voted to form a Joint Union District. (The word "Joint" indicates that one entire district lies in another county: San Luis Obispo County.) A bond issue of \$105,000 was voted by the people in 1929 for constructing a new modern building, an enlarged playground, and the inauguration of bus service to outlying areas.

The enrollment in 1930 of 348 has almost doubled to the present 665 and the number of teachers increased from 11 to 26 in the same period. The assessed valuation rose from \$2,713,460 to \$10,305,294 since 1930.

An additional classroom was added in 1936, and another in 1938. In 1946, the people voted an increased tax rate of \$2.90 for a two year period to build eight new classrooms and a cafeteria.

In 1948 the tax rate returned to 90c and in 1950 the people again supported the request of the board of trustees for an increased maximum tax rate to \$1.65 for a five-year period beginning in 1951.

Up until the 1954-55 school year, Guadalupe was the poorest school district in Santa Barbara County in terms of assessed valuation per child. The assessed valuation has risen during the past two years due to development of the oil field and the construction of the Union Oil Coking Plant located in the Oso Flaco portion of the Guadalupe Joint Union District. For the first time in many years, the taxpayers of the



district are enjoying a substantial reduction in school tax rate (95c).

Teachers in Guadalupe enjoy professional security and many have been teaching there long periods of years. Teacher turnover has been at a minimum. Because of the tremendous range of children's abilities, a real challenge confronts the teachers but the program is well adapted to the individual needs of children.

A full time school nurse is an invaluable member of the staff, and a full time music director supervises classroom music and directs a school band which has gained considerable recognition in its three years of existence.—Kermit McKenzie.

## Honda

One of the oldest, and always one of the smallest districts when measured by enrollment, the Honda District near Point Conception is reached only by railroad or a winding, often impassable, road.

The original district was formed prior to June, 1886, but records or information are not available until the 1930's. The original school house was in the geographical center of the district, but in the depression years was moved into the Southern Pacific station waiting room. Just two years ago the new and present building was completed and occupied.

One of the major problems for the school has been water. There is no water supply in the vicinity of the school and all water is shipped in by rail.

Because of its sequestered location, Honda School has always been a fascinating place about which to write. Articles have appeared in national magazines. In one case, at least, an article brought several letters to the school for the children to answer. "The Santa Barbara County Units of Study for Elementary Teachers" has a section telling about Mrs. Grace E. Sandy's transportation unit which utilizes the isolated environment for study.

The enrollment for the school has always been small. In 1929, it was 14 and in 1945 dropped from three to none; however, by 1947 there were seven primary students, and at the present time there are ten students from the first through eighth grade.

The isolatedness of the school calls for a special teacher. The weather and the view are wonderful, and with the new house trailer, living is especially comfortable, but teachers must still like this type of seclusion to enjoy teaching at Honda.—Louise M. Holt.

## Hope

Records show that property was deeded by M. H. Lane to the Trustees of Hope School District on August 1, 1874, the property that is presently occupied by the Hope Chapel. The first register, dated in 1891, shows an enrollment of 36, with one teacher, Miss Mary Diehl, receiving a salary of \$75 per month.

In 1921, after a bond election for a new building failed, a second room was added to the old building. In 1923, because of additional enrollment, the garage was converted into a classroom, and a third teacher was employed. A bond election was successfully passed in 1926 for \$36,000 and three classrooms and an auditorium were erected on the present site.

To utilize the selected site, a road had to be cut through from La Cumbre to Cieniguitas. A third teacher was added in 1928 and by 1930 an additional three classroom unit was approved and a fourth teacher added. A fifth teacher was added for children of walnut pickers that same year and class was held in the auditorium. The new wing was accepted in 1931.

The first P.T.A., organized in 1915, inaugurated a program of hot lunches in 1930. In 1942 a committee of residents called on the board for the establishment of a kindergarten and by 1944 two more teachers were added, bringing the staff to 7. In 1938 bus service was added for the children.

Another teacher was added in 1946 and in 1947 the board took over the sponsorship of the cafeteria and employed an instrumental music teacher. A full-time principal was hired in 1948.

An additional 6.8 acres adjoining the school to the north were purchased in October of 1948; a \$100,000 bond election to raise funds for a new school building was passed in 1949 when the new three-room addition of kindergarten and two first grade classrooms was completed and the first grades moved in from the auditorium. Nine teachers were employed in that year of 1949.

Another bond election was held in 1953, but was defeated. A resolution was passed that no out-of-district pupils be accepted because of crowded conditions, and the staff was increased to twelve. The thirteenth teacher was added in September of 1954 and a primary-two-room addition was completed in April of 1954.

The three-member board voted to increase their membership to five in the 1954 election. At budget time in 1955, it was agreed to set aside money for a pay-as-you-go building plan, since two classes are still being taught in sub-standard classrooms. At the April meeting in 1955, it was decided to employ a part-time speech correctionist sharing her expenses with surrounding county schools.—Margaret Kindred

## Lompoc

The story of Lompoc and the Lompoc schools begins with the early days of the Lompoc Colony Lands. The original land grants made by the Mexican government in 1837 and 1845, were eventually sold to a group of men consisting of the Hollisters, the Dibbles, and the Coopers. Later, Mr. Hollister felt that large land holdings would not contribute to the development of the country and Mission Vieja and Lompoc ranches were sold in 1874 by a religious colony.

Recognition of the need for education resulted in acquiring funds for schools. One fourth of all money received from the sale of the land was set aside for the building of an Agricultural Experimental College and the first \$30,000 was to be used for school buildings.

Hard times befell the colony, however, and a part of the building fund went to build a wharf which the high tides washed away. The "College Fund" similarly vanished. Today, all that is left to remind us of the higher aspirations of the colony founders is College Avenue on which the college was to have been built.

A statement made in December of 1874 says that there were enough children to require two schools if teachers and buildings could be found. A census taken then found some 225 children in the Lompoc area. Between 1875 and 1880 various school districts were formed in the Lompoc Valley area. One, the Purisima district, was formed in 1879 and a school started in that area with Ada Snow as teacher. Lompoc District came into being in 1875 and Santa Rita in 1878. Others followed.

The first reference to schooling of any kind in the Lompoc District comes from a statement by one of the local pioneers that Mrs. Whitlock opened the first school when she taught seven children. The place where she taught or the date when she started teaching is not clear to the writer though it must have been sometime in 1874 and 1875.

The first record of any public schooling in the Lompoc District comes from a statement that twenty citizens subscribed \$60 to fix the school for use. The first school was located at the northeast corner of H Street and Walnut Avenue where a service station now stands.

The school was opened May 3, 1875, by Reverend J. W. Webb. A statement made in July of 1875 reporting that the church congregations had outgrown the school house is an indication of the growth in Lompoc and consequently a need for a new school.

On October 16, 1875, a bond issue for \$3000 was passed. However, the school house for which the funds were raised was not completed until 1876



or 1877. It was built on the present elementary school site at H Street and Chestnut Avenue.

Sometime in 1890 Mr. Holton Webb became principal and remained with the school for ten years. Prior to this time the children in the school had not been classified by grade level in the town and in the rural area. He made other radical changes in the educational system which were probably for the better.

The population of Lompoc has continued to grow since early days. New school rooms were added by two and three units, then a new wing, and finally, a second school, the Arthur Hapgood, was completed in 1954. Twelve more classrooms will be added since a \$300,000 bond was passed in March, 1956.

From 1926 to 1948, Mr. Clarence Ruth was principal of the school and between 1926 and 1946, eight of the outlying school districts consolidated with the Lompoc District and it became the Lompoc Union Elementary School District.

In 1947, a superintendent of schools was employed, with two boards of education, one for the high school and the other for the elementary school. They were composed of the same personnel until 1954-55 when one member was elected to the high school board and a different one to the elementary board.

The school population is growing by leaps and bounds and so—Lompoc Union School, at least, expects to go back on double sessions for the coming year.—Gilbert Martin.

## Lompoc High

Lompoc Union High School was organized in the fall of 1891 under the direction of Alex McLean, president, and George Rucker, clerk, with Dr. Dimock representing Miguelito District; David Streeter, Santa Rita; William Fisher, La Salle; Rudd Bennett, Artesia; Walter Huyck, Lynden; Thomas Archer, Wise; Mrs. F. D. Hall, Honda; F. M. Rudolph, Bear Creek; Thomas C. Callis, Maple; A. H. Dyer, Aguaje; and Henry McCabe, Santa Lucia.

School was first held in one room of the Grammar School building and then removed to Dinwiddie Hall, which did not prove satisfactory. The next move took them back to the rooms upstairs in the Presbyterian Manse, where the Rev. B. J. Whittemore conducted his private school and where they stayed until the new building was ready for occupancy.

A. M. Henderson was really the first principal but at the end of the first year, he quit to study medicine and the Rev. Whittemore assumed the principalship along with his pastoral duties. Mrs. Whittemore proved an excellent assistant in his teaching. At the end of his first year he felt he had to do more

important work with his ministry and James Dinton succeeded him with the assistance of W. S. Edwards.

The new school had three large classrooms, a laboratory, and assembly room with a seating capacity for 400. It cost \$12,000 completely equipped. Four teachers were employed and students were prepared primarily for university training.

The first to graduate from the "Whittemore College" in 1893 were George Callis and George Broughton and classes have graduated regularly since then.

1894 Abe Benton Henning, William Arkley, Robert Roy McGregor, Mary McCabe, and Rufus Balaam.

1895 Will Johnston, Edith Young, M. Olive Streeter, Myrtle Hudson, Mable Spencer, and Ralph Sproul.

1895 Grace Hibbits, May Henning, George Allan, Lula L. Glasscock, and Frank Earls.

1896 Ed Talbott, Willie Downing, Verda Davis, Lorna Edrington, Daisy Harmon, Victoria Rios, Louise Hudson, Nellie Barker, and Myrtle Rudolph.

—Charles Lockwood

## Los Alamos

In the beginning in the Los Alamos area, there were four school districts. The first was started in February, 1877 by the Careaga and Harris families on their own property, seven miles from the town. It was called the Los Alamos School and located on a side hill, north of the highway across from the present steel bridge.

The Bell School District was named after John Bell because it was built on land which he had given the town. Since there was confusion over the names of the two districts, the Bell district was renamed Los Alamos and the one near the Harris Station, Careaga District.

The first school building in the town was built from lumber shipped to Point Sal. Daniel Connor, Lorison Gates, and the Hilton brothers, early settlers, would haul grain to the Point and bring back the lumber. The building was just a rectangular block at first. Then as the school grew, the building was enlarged making an L-shaped school. Mrs. Eliza Curtis, sister of C. D. Patterson, livery stable owner, was the first teacher of this school.\*

Subsequently, the first building was razed and another was built in its place but later burned. The third building, the present one, was then erected. A beautiful auditorium has been added and a modern cafeteria was completed in May of this year. The friendly and cooperative spirit of Los Alamos School embraces the valley and community cooperation is outstanding.

\*From a manuscript written by Alta Hayden, presently teacher in College School.

## Los Olivos

Education has thrived for more than 61 years in Los Olivos. In 1888 due to the railroad and the influx of population from the midwest, the community felt the need for its own school.

The first was a subscription school located adjacent to what is now Mattei's Tavern. In order to pay the teacher, a collection was taken. The children had to buy their own books and pens. The first school had only one room, and the pupil attendance was 15. This school lasted one year.

For six months in the year 1889, the school was held in a cottage owned by Alden M. Boyd. In 1890, the first school building was completed and, from that year on, was in session until 1926. This building was located on the grounds of the present school building. It was a two-story wooden building with an incompleting room upstairs, one classroom and a band room downstairs.

Water was carried from the town in buckets until Harvey Stonebarger drilled a well at the school in 1918. The lavatories were located outside. Lanterns were used for lighting. The average attendance was about 45. Outside activities consisted of tennis, band, and baseball.

In 1926 this building was condemned and torn down. It was old and drafty, the stairs were steep and narrow, and the upstairs was not too firm.

While the present building was being built, school was held in a cottage. The stucco building with electric lights and heaters, piped water, and new play equipment was completed in 1927. The rooms include two classrooms, an office, a basement, and an auditorium. The basement has hot water and an electric stove. The auditorium-gymnasium was built on the foundation of the old building; it has a stage and two large rooms.

Since the building was built, many improvements have been made: a new roof, new stage curtains, individual classroom sinks, and modern desks. In 1950, the growing attendance made a third teacher necessary for primary, intermediate, and upper grades. To accommodate the intermediate class, the basement, decorated by the Mothers' Club, was temporarily changed into a classroom until 1953, when the new primary building was completed.—L. E. Hanson.

### SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SCHOOLS

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## Maple

Mrs. Clara Proud, perhaps as much as anyone, represents the history of the Maple School District. As a child she attended Maple from the fourth grade through the eighth. In 1922 she began as teacher at Maple and has taught the majority of her quarter of a century of teaching at the school two miles north of Lompoc.

The year 1887 was the founding date for the Maple School District. The LaSalle District which was organized in 1868, later disbanded and was deeded over to Maple District to form much of the present district area. The original LaSalle school is now a home in Lompoc.

Maple's most famous "alumnus" is probably the Olympic Games miler, "Nick" Carter. Other familiar names in the past of the district include Bendashers, Miller, Callis, Daneburg, Wickle, Ball, Hodges, Stambaugh, Kahn, Bush, Douglas, Legee, Winans, Grif-fiths, Beauterbaugh, and Lewis.

Two major movements have shaped the history of Maple School District. One was the growth of the seed industry which changed the face of the land to its present beauty; the second was the building of Camp Cooke which took over the northern part of the district.

The original school burned in 1920 and the old registers and records along with it. The new building which is the present building, was enlarged in 1951 when two separate classrooms were in use. The present assessed valuation of the district is \$750,000 with no bonds outstanding.

## Montecito

Montecito Union School had its beginnings in the Montecito and Ortega districts which were established as schools about the time California became a state. No further specific information is available until the two schools were reestablished in the 1880's.

The union of the two districts into the present framework came about in 1922. The enrollment is now about 315 students in the six grades and kindergarten; this total has been reached through a gradual growth over the past 30 years. The assessed valuation is now \$12,245,120.

In Montecito Union School, the role of the teacher is more challenging where the present curriculum is planned to meet the individual needs of children. There are a variety of readers used in all grades; arithmetic involves more problem solving; human relations are stressed; and community resources are widely utilized.

One of the earliest teachers at Mon-

## Orcutt

Orcutt School District was formed in May, 1884 at which time it was called La Graciosa School; Martin School District came into being in April, 1885, Newlove School District in December, 1908; Pine Grove School District in May, 1881, Washington School District in May, 1881, and Careaga School District and Bicknell School District in April, 1904.

Orcutt Union School District was established April 3, 1921 by unionization of Orcutt, Martin, and Newlove School Districts. In 1932 Pine Grove School District joined, and in 1933 Careaga, Washington, and Bicknell School Districts also joined the Orcutt Union School District.

The present school building was built in 1920 and the opening enrollment in 1921 was approximately 280 students with 9 teachers. The old Orcutt School was a two story, wooden structure located in downtown Orcutt. When the present school building was

tectito School, Mrs. Marta Ord, is now living near the school. Another former teacher, Mrs. Maude Gamage, who now lives in Santa Paula, attended Montecito School as a child.

Mrs. Gamage tells of riding to school on a donkey and carrying her lunch in a lard-pail. When she went to school, children were required to read one reader in the first grade and were kept in that grade until they had mastered it. Playground equipment consisted of a string ball made by the children. A board or heavy branch served for a bat. A real treat in those days was singing the multiplication tables. Of course, parents purchased books, slates, and pencils for their children. —Esther Poulsen.

built Orcutt had a railroad running through it. This was the old Pacific Coast Narrow Gauge Railroad and a special spur track was built to the site of the present Orcutt School so lumber and cement could be unloaded there. The Highway 101 went right through Orcutt until approximately 1930.

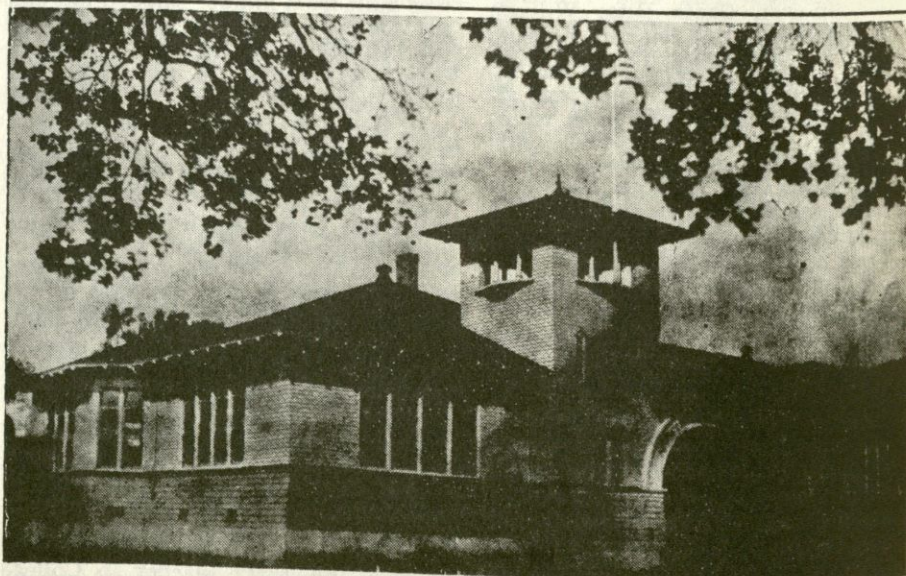
The enrollment of the Orcutt School remained between 240 and 280 until September 1946. During the ensuing school term the enrollment passed the 300 mark and today hovers around 820 students.

In 1948 Orcutt School built one of the first three elementary school gymnasiums in the state. In 1949 four classrooms were added and the old building remodeled to provide two additional classrooms. In 1953 eight additional classrooms were built bringing the school up to 25 classrooms. Orcutt now has 27 teachers with one class being conducted in the auditorium lobby and one in a basement room which was formerly used for a woodshop class.

The district is now planning to build a 16-classroom primary school 2½ miles north of the town of Orcutt. It is hoped that the school will be ready for use in September, 1958. When the new school is built all of the 7th and 8th grade pupils in the entire district will attend the main school in Orcutt.

The Orcutt School now offers the following special educational services; home teachers for sick pupils, an ungraded class for primary slow learners, band, orchestra, chorus, and sewing. The school's cafeteria serves approximately 300 pupils daily and the district operates 8 school buses and transports about 635 pupils daily.

The Betteravia School District has filed a petition to become a part of the Orcutt Union School District. The people in Betteravia will vote on this issue on May 18, 1956.—Joe Nightingale



Montecito School from another generation.



## Santa Ynez Valley High

Representatives of the nine elementary school districts comprising the Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District formed previously, met at the College Grammar School in Santa Ynez on August 22, 1896 for organizing "the Board of Trustees, and naming and locating the new high school."

A finance committee submitted an estimated budget of \$2000 for the first year, \$600 of which was to cover the cost of furniture and supplies and \$1200 for the salary of Mr. W. S. Edwards, who was selected to serve as principal and teacher. An important recommendation, which represents pioneering in the field of free public education, was that the district should own and supply all necessary textbooks.

Felix Mattei was elected chairman of the first Board of Trustees.

For the first few years students were required to take all of the courses offered. There were no electives. No date is given for the opening of school, but it must have been sometime late in the fall of 1896. Classes were held in the College Grammar School. By 1898 the curriculum had become somewhat more liberal and students were allowed to graduate without having trigonometry and Virgil.

In 1908 a bond election for a high school building was carried by a vote of 153 to 34. Arrangements were made with the College Hotel to use the dining room, parlor, and two other rooms for high school classes at a monthly rental of \$40. In the same year the Trustees purchased a \$350 building site for the new school which cost \$12,430.

A note in the minutes of 1911 states that the school was accredited that year. During the same year, the first school bus was operated, running from Zaca to Los Olivos, then to Ballard, and on to the high school. By this time the school had a budget of \$10,000. In 1914 bids were let for the construction of a domestic science and manual training building.

The effect of World War I on the enrollment was noticed when no commencement exercises were held in 1917, there being only one graduate.

In February, 1922, the Farm Bureau requested the Board to introduce a course in agriculture. Five teachers were then on the staff and the school required a budget of \$20,450.

An interesting and forward-looking motion was made and carried in 1924 to the effect that "Mr. Westcott get data on a motion picture machine as to kinds and cost so that the Board could plan a series of educational entertainments with the view of making the school a community center for the enjoyment of the people of the Valley."

In 1929 the first evening classes for

adults were established. The first class was a class in citizenship.

The school at Santa Ynez, which holds memories for many adults in the Valley, was condemned and torn down in 1934. A new and larger site was selected and purchased for \$2000 and with money from a \$65,000 bond issue, and assistance from a WPA grant, the present school plant was begun. The present shop building was built in 1935 and housed the business offices while students attended classes in tents. The administration building, shower rooms, and auditorium were completed in 1936.

In 1939, the livestock judging team won first in the State and took part in the national contest in Kansas City. The first Spring Music Festival was presented in 1940, and through the years has become a popular Valley musical program.

The High School District conducted the educational program in the CCC Camp at Los Prietos for five years during the late '30's, serving more than a thousand boys, more than 200 receiving their high school diplomas. The camp has since become the Los Prietos Boys Camp, serving about 60 boys placed there by the courts of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The educational program is conducted by the district and financed by the State. The boys camp has attracted State and National attention and has become the model for many similar juvenile camp schools.

The Music Building was built in 1950, and two new classrooms were added in 1952. Also, in 1952, the high schools in the County joined together under a \$40,000 Rosenberg Foundation grant to improve their work in vocational guidance through a County-wide School-Community Work Education program for students.

Graduates of the local high school since it was founded in 1896 now number more than 1,100 and hundreds now still living in the Valley, in reminiscing, tell of the prowess of the Santa Ynez soccer, basketball and baseball teams, and of the activities and events of their high school days.

A fiftieth Anniversary alumni reunion and celebration was held in the spring of 1946. Mr. James Westcott was the principal speaker. Nearly 300 of the 713 graduates were in attendance.

Nearly 500 alumni of the high school, representing a period from 1898 to 1955, gathered April 28 of this year to take part in the school's sixtieth birthday celebration.

Records at the High School show that Miss Michaela de la Cuesta and Miss Nellie Donahue were among the first alumni of the school, with Miss Donahue finishing her work in 1899 and Miss de la Cuesta graduating in 1900. Both are still living in the Valley.

## Solvang

Portions of the Ballard and Nojoqui School Districts were set aside in 1890 to form a new school district which was known as The Ynez District. The name was changed to Solvang Elementary School District in February 1928 after the community of Solvang had been founded; however, the boundaries remained the same.

The original school was located near the present site of the Nielsen and Rasmussen Toyland Store. The new two-room school built in Solvang in 1916 was located on the present site of the Sun Motors, and served the Solvang School District until 1940.

The first members of the Board of Education of the Solvang School District were Termann Paaske, who was the father of the present Clerk of our School Board, Raymond M. Paaske, Mrs. Cecelia Fauerso and Anker Bredall.

In 1930 the enrollment of the school reached 68 pupils, and stayed relatively constant until the school was moved to the present building in 1940. At this time the enrollment had reached 77. The school operated as a three-classroom school until the fall of 1949 when a fourth teacher was added to the faculty. In 1950 a kindergarten was added, and the enrollment of the school steadily increased until at the present time there are nine classrooms and an enrollment of 251.

The assessed valuation of the Solvang School District is a little less than \$2,000,000. The assessed valuation per average daily attendance is less than \$8,000 per pupil. The rate of increase in enrollment has been about ten percent per year for the past five years.—Les Anderson.

## Summerland

Summerland was settled as a spiritualist colony in 1889. The present townsite of Summerland formed a portion of a land grant of the old Pueblo of Santa Barbara. Summerland was heralded as a "peace haven" for people who needed spiritual advice. Therefore, lots were laid out for a tent city, and were only 25x60 feet.

In 1895, a Mr. Cole encountered a large flow of oil while digging a water well on his place. This resulted in introducing commercial element, and thus the original plans for being entirely a colony of Spiritualists was never completed.

The last Summerland boom was during World War I, at which time there were three kelp plants producing iodine and potash. Since then the town has grown smaller; however, now with a new factory being built on Ortega Hill there are high hopes of the town's



growing again.

The school originated in 1890 with ten students and one teacher, Mrs. S. P. Baker, going up to 27 students in September, 1891. During the oil boom it had an enrollment of 85 but is now down to 48 students and two teachers.

Daily program for 1890 read singing, projects, arithmetic, recess, reading, intermission, mental arithmetic, spelling, language, geography, calisthenics, writing, drawing, music, sewing, object lessons, dictation, composition, letter writing, and science.

Some of the early pioneers were H. L. Williams, spiritualist, founder of Summerland (stepfather of Miss Nora Morgan of Summerland); Edgar Beresford, oil driller and still prominent in Summerland; Mrs. Ada Miller, a hotel owner who is still alive. Her daughter is Mrs. Opal Miller Lambert, the postmistress; Fred Lambert, Mrs. May Croop Lambert, and sons, Cecil, Ray, and Clarence, and daughter, Mrs. Betty Lash, all prominent Summerland citizens, and Bill Smith, editor of the *Advanced Currier* during the 1890's.

—Vivian Hodge

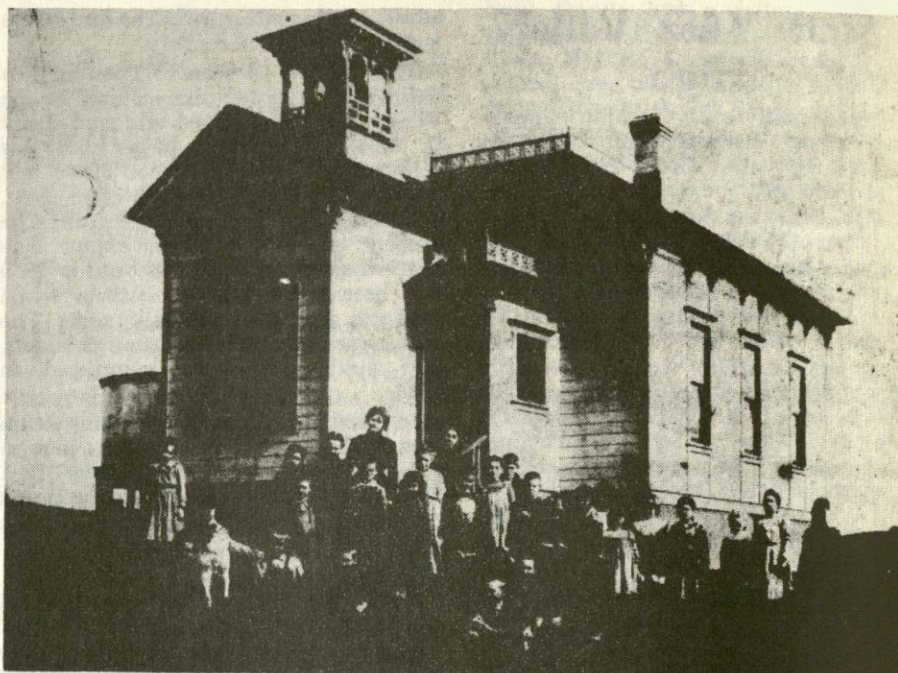
## Vista del Mar

The story of the Vista del Mar Union school in Santa Barbara County, while unique in some ways, is typical of the story of the unification of small rural school districts throughout California. With changing times people saw the greater educational opportunities in larger rural schools and worked together to make them possible. With modern transportation, children from a large rural area can be transported to a central school where district funds can be pooled.

Vista del Mar district is especially blessed in having a very high assessed valuation. Real estate taxes have been low in comparison with other elementary districts in the same high school district. The high assessed valuation has made it possible to pay good salaries as well as maintain and improve the school. The attendance fluctuates little, seldom being over seventy or under fifty.

Vista del Mar Union district began in 1926 with the union of Las Cruces, Alcatraz, and Orella districts. Each of these had a small one-teacher school to which the children walked or rode. In 1927 bonds were voted and the present building erected. Many improvements have been made since, and two classrooms were added making four. San Julian joined the union in 1949. Two emergency schools were maintained for several years—Drake and El Capitan, the latter, a school for migratory children.

For many years Vista del Mar was a two-teacher school. In 1940 a third teacher was added, then a fourth. For many years also there was one bus-



What the well-dressed student of about 1920 would wear is shown in this picture of Summerland School and one of its early classes.

## Pioneer Teacher Cont.

(Continued From Page 1)

twice a year for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, and the pupil repeated the grade if he didn't pass.

I can still see those agonized faces! I can still feel that awful sense of guilt when a question was asked on which they had not been drilled. I remember the innocently significant answer one boy wrote to the question, "Name two important events of 1619." He wrote, "A cargo of maids was brought over from Europe and slavery was begun in America."

I boarded at a big cattle ranch about a mile from the school. It was only seven miles from home but we had no car and the roads were terrific. I went

driver custodian. Now there are two which makes a better bus schedule possible. An excellent lunch program has been maintained for several years.

Far more complex than the one-room schools of earlier times, the present Vista del Mar school offers many more educational opportunities to its lucky children.—Carolyn Henning.

home Friday nights and back Sunday evenings.

The teacher ate with the ranch hands. They exuded the odor of the stables and were for the most part an unglamorous lot. There was no sprightly conversation. The heavy, hearty food disappeared rapidly and in silence save when there was soup!

Just this last summer one of the school boys whom I hadn't seen for forty years came to see me. He had been a thin little fellow with a voice like a bird. He was now a heavy, middle-aged man who wept at the memory of the songs we used to sing. He had copied them into a composition book in school and kept them for years.

A tiny crowded room, meager facilities, hidebound traditions, no one to whom to turn for advice, barely a living wage, and yet I look back with a feeling of nostalgia on the scene of my early struggles.

I'm sure the experience helped me to appreciate in later years the light, airy classrooms, the many available aids, the every ready to help rural supervisors and all the wonderful efficiency of the modern school system.



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